

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for providing forced aspiration to an
5 internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising:

a first displacement device for being driven by
exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine to which
the apparatus is in use mounted; and,

a second displacement device operable to compress
10 combustion gas for provision to an engine to which the
apparatus is in use mounted;

the first and second displacement devices being
coupled such that when in use the first displacement
device is driven and causes the second displacement device
15 to operate.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, in which the first
and second displacement devices are coupled by a common
shaft of rotation.

20

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, comprising a
drive coupling for coupling the first and/or second
displacement device to an engine crank shaft of an engine
to which the apparatus is in use mounted.

25

4. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, in
which at least one of the first and second displacement
devices comprises a lobed rotor and a recessed rotor
arranged such that on rotation of the lobed rotor and the
30 recessed rotor, a lobe from the lobed rotor enters a
recess from the recessed rotor to define a variable volume
chamber for respectively compression of exhaust gas or
expansion of combustion gas.

5 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, in which the
recess and the lobe extend straight in a direction
parallel to the axis of rotation of the corresponding
rotor.

10 6. An apparatus according to claim 4, in which the
recess and the lobe extend helically in a direction
parallel to the axis of rotation of the corresponding
rotor.

15 7. An apparatus according to any of claims 4 to 6,
arranged such that the maximum volume of said variable
volume chamber can be controlled.

20 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, comprising a
control device associated with at least one of the first
and second displacement devices, the control device being
controlled in dependence on a feedback signal generated in
dependence on an output of the first displacement device
to vary the maximum volume of said variable volume chamber
of the at least one of the first and second displacement
devices.

25 9. An apparatus according to claim 8, in which each of
the first displacement device and the second displacement
device comprises a lobed rotor and a recessed rotor
arranged such that on rotation of the lobed rotor and the
recessed rotor, a lobe from the lobed rotor enters a
30 recess from the recessed rotor to define a variable volume
chamber

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, in which both of the first and second displacement devices has a corresponding control device attached thereto.

5 11. An apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 10, comprising a pressure sensor mounted on an input to the first displacement device to detect a pressure at the input to the first displacement device and provide a signal in dependence thereon for controlling the or each
10 control device.

12. An apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 11, comprising a pressure sensor mounted on an output of the second displacement device to detect a pressure of
15 combustion gas output from the second displacement device and provide a signal in dependence thereon for controlling the or each control device.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11 or 12, comprising
20 a controller arranged to receive the signal from the pressure sensor and provide a control signal to the or each control device to control the maximum possible volume of the respective variable volume chamber.

25 14. An internal combustion engine, the engine comprising:
one or more swept volume chambers for receiving a fuel and air mixture;
an apparatus for providing forced aspiration to the swept volume chambers, the apparatus comprising an
30 expander to receive exhaust gas from the engine and a compressor driven by the expander to compress air for provision to the one or more swept volume chambers,

-23-

wherein the expander and the compressor are each displacement devices.

15. An engine according to claim 14, wherein the expander
5 and the compressor are connected by a common shaft of rotation.

16. An engine according to claim 14, wherein the common
shaft of rotation is connected to an output shaft of the
10 engine in such a way as to be able selectively to provide a driving force to the engine output shaft and to receive a driving force therefrom.

17. An engine having an apparatus mounted thereon, the
15 apparatus being for providing forced aspiration to the engine, the apparatus comprising:

an expander to be driven by exhaust gas from one or more swept volume chambers of the engine; and,

a compressor to be driven by the expander to compress
20 air for provision to the one or more swept volume chambers of the engine,

wherein a connection is provided between the apparatus and the engine output shaft to enable power to be taken from the engine to drive the compressor when insufficient
25 exhaust gas to drive the expander is generated by the engine and to provide power to the engine output shaft from the apparatus when sufficient exhaust gas is generated.

30 18. An engine according to any of claims 14 to 17, in which at least one of the first and second displacement devices comprises a lobed rotor and a recessed rotor arranged such that on rotation of the lobed rotor and the

-24-

recessed rotor, a lobe from the lobed rotor enters a recess from the recessed rotor to define a variable volume chamber for respectively compression of exhaust gas or expansion of combustion gas.